

Frequently Asked Questions About Trees

- **Can I remove a tree that is between the sidewalk and street in front of my house or business?**
Check the plat of your property for ownership of this area. For the most part, this area belongs to the City of Carmel and the trees are city property.
- **Does the City of Carmel remove city trees at homeowners' request?**
Having trees and other landscaping is a benefit for all citizens. The city has invested time and money into these improvements for all citizens and neighborhoods. City trees are a valuable resource and are therefore removed only under specific circumstances. Should you wonder about your tree's contribution to your home or have landscape conflicts, contact our office at 317 571-2417 to discuss options for your specific needs.
- **I have a dead tree in front of my house on city property, who should I contact?**
Contact the Urban Forester, Daren Mindham at 317-571-2417 or dmindham@carmel.in.gov.
- **A tree has fallen in the street, whom should I contact?**
Contact the Carmel Street Department at 317-733-2001.
- **I have a dead tree in the alley behind our property that needs to be removed. Will the city do this?**
If the tree is located within city property and is dead, the city will remove it. Contact the Urban Forester, Daren Mindham at 317-571-2417 or dmindham@carmel.in.gov.
- **Someone or something is damaging a city tree, who should I contact?**
Contact the Urban Forester, Daren Mindham at 317-571-2417 or dmindham@carmel.in.gov.
- **What do I do if a street tree needs maintenance?**
If a street tree needs to be trimmed or inspected, please contact the Urban Forester, Daren Mindham at 317-571-2417 or dmindham@carmel.in.gov.
- **Will the city assist a citizen with tree trimming or removal on private property?**
No, unfortunately, the city cannot assist a citizen with tree trimming or removal on private property. As a homeowner, you will have to contact a consulting arborist to meet your tree care needs.
- **I would like to plant a tree on city property, who should I contact?**
An Authorization Form for homeowner street tree planting is located on the City of Carmel, Urban Forestry webpage <http://www.ci.carmel.in.us/services/DOCS/DOCSUF.htm>; you can also contact the Urban Forester, Daren Mindham at 317-571-2417 or dmindham@carmel.in.gov.
- **My neighbor's tree hangs over my property line. Whose responsibility is it to trim? My neighbor refuses to.**
Trees, as they grow and develop, are not aware of property lines. If a tree has grown over the property line, the responsibility to trim belongs to whoever's property the tree hangs over. In other words, if a tree extends over two properties each property owner is responsible to trim that portion of the tree that extends over his/her property. Proper pruning techniques must be used. Limbs that extend over onto your property do not automatically warrant removal if the overhanging limb is not causing any interference. The limb(s), therefore, should be left alone. Sound forestry practices that relate to proper trimming of trees must be followed. Severe trimming which damages the health of the trees should not be practiced.

- **In a recent storm, a large branch of my neighbor's tree fell into my yard and is lying across the fence. Whose responsibility is it to remove this limb?**

It is the responsibility of both neighbors working together on their own respective properties.

- **I received a letter telling me to remove a dead tree in my front yard. However, this tree is mostly on my neighbor's property and not mine and so I think it is his responsibility to have it removed. What can I do?**

Check your property survey to determine exactly whose property the tree is located on. Discuss with your neighbor to see if they concur. Notify the City of Carmel if the tree is not located on your property. If tree is located partly on your property, share the cost of the removal between property owners.

- **A tree on my private property has grown up into the utility wires. I have called the power company but they say they will get to it when they can. I am afraid this is a very dangerous situation. Can the city do something about this?**

No. The responsibility for trimming trees growing into and around the utility wires by Federal law is that of the utility company.

- **Does the City of Carmel have a Christmas tree recycling program?**

No, it is the homeowner's responsibility to dispose of their Christmas tree.

- **Does the City of Carmel have a leaf-recycling pick up program?**

No. It is the homeowner's responsibility to manage this debris on his/her property. This includes yard waste such as grass clippings, leaves, trimmed branches, etc.